



Maritime OPINTEL Report

**(U) WORLDWIDE: Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS)
Report
2 February – 5 March 2014**

6 March 2014

Maritime Crime/Piracy

(U) Table of Contents

- 1. (U) Scope Note**
- 2. (U) Summary**
- 3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories**
- 4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region**
- 5. (U) Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources**
- 6. (U) Appendix B: Terminology and References**

1. (U) Scope Note

(U) The Worldwide Threat to Shipping (WTS) message provides info on piracy threats to, and criminal action against, merchant vessels worldwide in the last 30 days. This report is produced primarily to inform merchant mariners and naval forces.

2. (U) Summary

1. (U) OMAN: On 6 March, a merchant vessel experienced a suspicious approach approximately 122 nm southeast of Muscat, Oman.
2. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 March, an underway tanker experienced a boarding 3 nm from Pulau Karimun Kecil.
3. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 March at approximately 0130 local time, the Nigerian-flagged offshore tug and supply vessel PRINCE JOSEPH 1 experienced a boarding and kidnapping event near Akwa Ibom State.
4. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 March, an underway bulk carrier experienced an attempted boarding approximately 60 nm west-southwest of Brass.
5. (U) RED SEA: On 3 March, an Iranian-flagged tanker experienced suspicious activity in the Bab al Mandeb Strait, in the southern Red Sea.
6. (U) BANGLADESH: On 1 March, an anchored bulk carrier experienced a boarding at Chittagong Anchorage.

7. (U) PAKISTAN: On 28 February, an underway Bangladeshi-flagged bulk carrier, MV Crystal Gold, experienced suspicious activity approximately 40 nm southeast of Gwadar, Pakistan,

3. (U) Counter-Piracy and Maritime Crime Announcements and Advisories

A. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Government of Japan convoy schedule for March 2014. Merchant vessels that wish to apply for JMSDF escort operation should visit http://www.mlit.go.jp/en/maritime/maritime_fr2_000000.html, please contact directly the Anti-Piracy Contact and Coordination Office, Maritime Bureau, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism (MILT), Japan: Tel: +81-3-5253-8932 Fax: +81-3-5253-1643 Email: INFO-PIRACY@mlit.go.jp. (MSCHOA)

B. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Korean Navy convoy schedule for March 2014. All merchant vessels wishing to join the convoy group must submit their application forms directly to the ROK naval warship carrying out the mission. The ROK MTG can be reached directly at INMARSAT: 870-773-110-438, Email: rokcheonghae@gmail.com. (MSCHOA)

C. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Chinese Navy convoy schedule for March 2014. For further information, please e-mail planavy@navy.mil.cn, or call Tel: 86 10 652 92221, Fax: 86 10 652 92245. (MSCHOA)

D. (U) GULF OF ADEN: Indian Navy convoy escort schedule for March 2014. To register, email antipiracyescort@dgshipping.com or visit www.dgshipping.com. Telephone numbers for contact are: 91-22-22614646 or fax at 91-22- 22613636. (MSCHOA)

4. (U) Details: Monthly Incidents by Region

(U) This section lists reports of active violence against shipping, credible threats to shipping, or the potential for a situation to develop into a direct threat to shipping over the last 30 days. Designation of a high-threat area is based on an assessment of all source information relating to the existence of, or potential for, piracy and other crime, terrorism, civil unrest, or low-intensity conflict. Every effort is made to ensure that incidents are not double-counted. In the event double-counting is detected, or an incident is later learned to be different than initially reported, an explanation of the cancellation of the inaccurate report will be made in at least one message prior to dropping the erroneous report.

A. (U) **NORTH AMERICA:** No current incidents to report.

B. (U) **CENTRAL AMERICA–CARIBBEAN – SOUTH AMERICA:**

1. (U) **BRITISH VIRGIN ISLANDS:** On 9 February, two masked men boarded an anchored yacht in Fat Hogs Bay. The owner heard them climbing on board and attempt to open the companion way doors. When the yacht owner yelled, the boarders proceeded to run away with the owner in pursuit. As the masked men jumped into their dinghy they fired a shot at the yacht owner which missed (www.bvinews.com)

2. (U) **ST MARTIN:** Between late January and early February, a notable increase in boardings

and thefts on yachts was noted by boat crews transiting the area. During this time period, there were at least two burglaries of unoccupied boats; four dinghy thefts; three attempted thefts and one burglary with multiple electronic items stolen. (www.noonsite.com; www.safetyandsecuritynet.com)

- C. (U) **ATLANTIC OCEAN AREA**: No current incidents to report.
- D. (U) **NORTHERN EUROPE–BALTIC**: No current incidents to report.
- E. (U) **MEDITERRANEAN–BLACK SEA**: No current incidents to report.
- F. (U) **WEST AFRICA**:

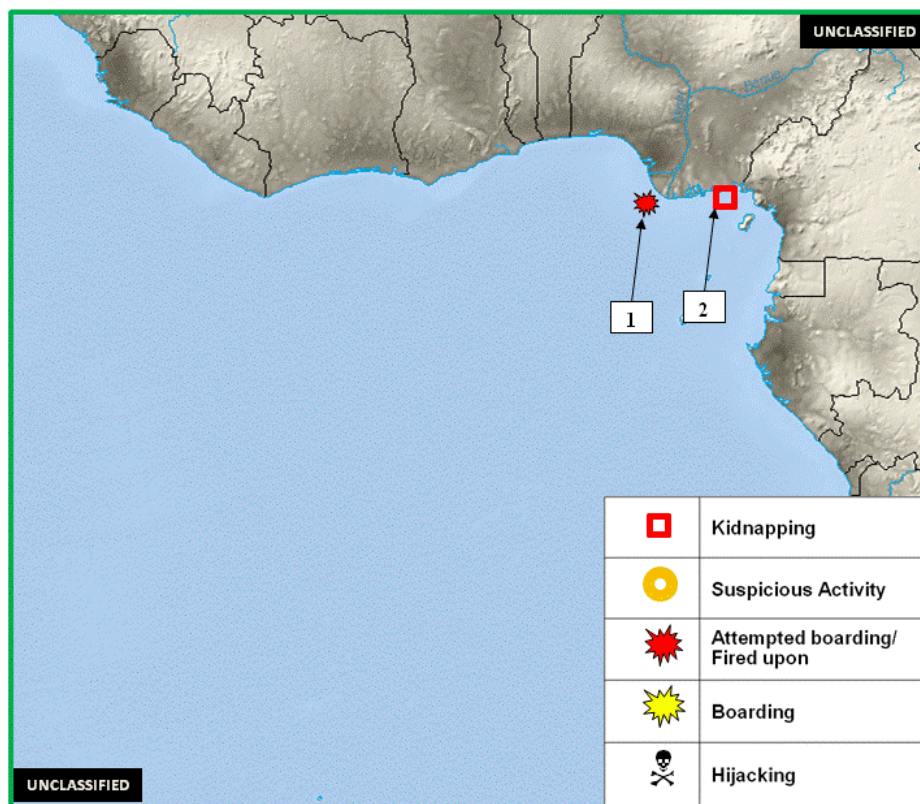


Figure 1. West Africa Maritime Crime

1. (U) **NIGERIA**: On 4 March, armed pirates attempted to board an underway bulk carrier near position 04:00 N – 005:16 E, approximately 60 nm west-southwest of Brass. The pirates in two skiffs chased and fired upon the vessel during the attempted boarding. The vessel raised the alarm and non-essential crew mustered in the citadel. Master increased speed, took evasive maneuvers and sent SSAS alert. Due to the hardening measures taken by the Ship's Master the pirates aborted the attempted attack and moved away. The vessel sustained damage due to bullets striking the accommodation area.

2. (U) NIGERIA: On 4 March at approximately 0130 local time, pirates boarded the Nigerian-flagged offshore supply vessel PRINCE JOSEPH 1 and kidnapping three crewmembers near position 04 17 N - 007 53 E, Bight of Bonny, off Akwa Ibom State. After the pirates departed the vessel, the remaining crewmembers sailed to the port of Onne. (www.news.odin.tc)

3. (U) CONGO: On 20 February, robbers boarded an anchored supply ship using a rope near position 04:54 S - 011:49 E, Pointe Noire Anchorage. They stole ship's property and escaped when the duty crew spotted them. (IMB)

4. (U) NIGERIA: On 19 February, six pirates in a small boat attempted to board an underway tanker near position 03:57 N – 005:18 E, 26 nm southwest of Pennington Oil Terminal. The pirates approached the tanker and tried to hook onto a boarding ladder. Upon detecting the pirates, the crew raised the alarm and immediately started taking evasive maneuvers. The pirates tried to hook on the ladder several times at different positions along the port and starboard quarters. The pirates departed the area after the armed embarked security team fired warning shots. (IMB)

5. (U) NIGERIA: On 6 February, pirates attacked and boarded the Barbados-flagged offshore supply vessel PSV MARINER SEA off the Bayelsa State coast. Pirates directed the vessel to a particular spot on the coast, near 03:49 N 005:43 E and then departed the ship, taking with them the ship's Captain and Chief Engineer. (www.news.odin.tc)

6. (U) NIGERIA: On 6 February, pirates attacked the Panamanian flagged tanker CHER approximately 75 nm west-southwest of Brass approximately 1000 local time. (www.news.odin.tc)

7. (U) NIGERIA: On 5 February, a drifting tanker experienced a suspicious approach near position 03:46 N – 006:24 E: approximately 30 nm southeast of Brass Terminal. Watchmen on the ship sighted a skiff with six persons armed with rifles approaching the vessel and looking for a way to board the vessel using a rope and hook. Alarm raised and SSAS alert activated. Seeing crew alertness the pirates aborted the attempt and moved away. (IMB)

8. (U) CONGO: On 4 February, two robbers armed with long knives boarded an anchored general cargo ship near position 04:46 S – 011:52 E, Pointe Noire Roads. The Duty Officer, while on routine rounds, noticed the robbers at the forecastle store room and raised the alarm. The robbers subsequently jumped overboard and escaped in a small wooden boat with stolen ship's stores. Ship's Master tried to call port control, but received no response. Local agent was informed. (IMB)

G. (U) INDIAN OCEAN–EAST AFRICA:

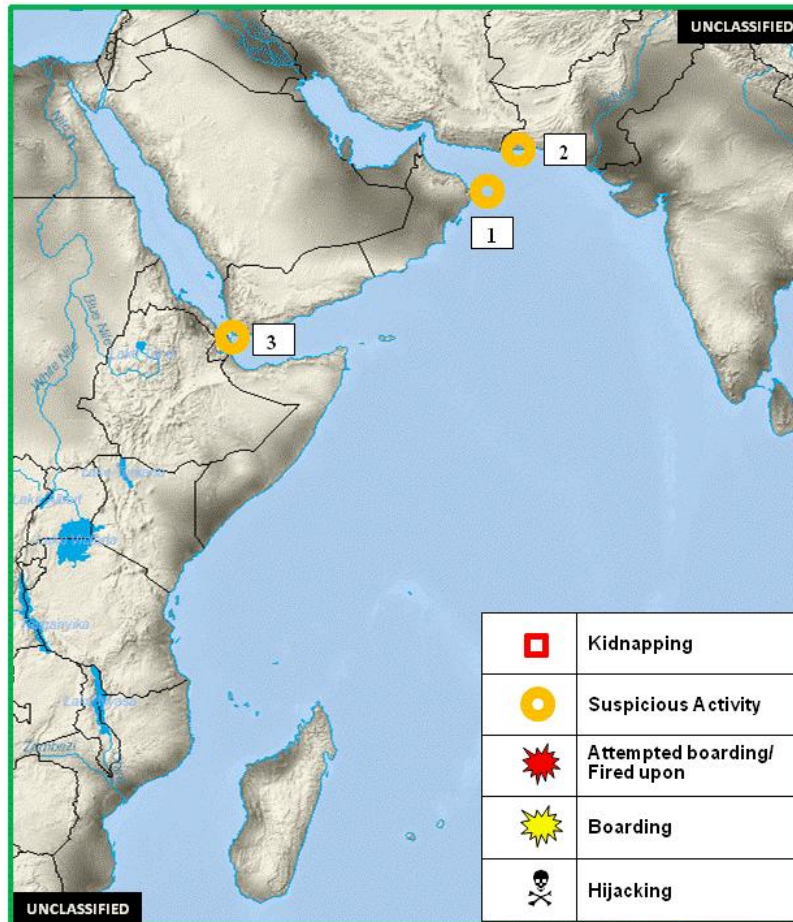


Figure 2. Indian Ocean Maritime Crime

1. (U) OMAN: On 6 March, three suspicious white skiffs approached a merchant vessel near position 22:27.1 N – 060:29.2 E, approximately 122 nm southeast of Muscat, Oman. The skiffs with two persons onboard each skiff approached the ship to within a half mile. After self protection measures were initiated by the crew, the skiffs moved away. (NATO Shipping Centre)

2. (U) PAKISTAN: On 28 February, suspected pirates in a skiff chased an underway Bangladeshi-flagged bulk carrier, MV CRYSTAL GOLD near position 24:33 N – 062:44 E, approximately 40 nm southeast of Gwadar, Pakistan. The pirates reportedly chased for up to four hours. The vessel took evasive measures as outlined in BMP 4, reported the incident to UKMTO, and headed towards the Pakistani coast. The Pakistani Navy deployed a naval asset which located the skiff and detained the suspected pirates. The vessel's owners said there were 23 Bangladeshi crewmen on their vessel. (IMB, The Daily Star (Bangladesh), The New Nation (Bangladesh))

3. (U) RED SEA: On 3 March, pirates approached an Iranian-flagged tanker near the Bab al Mandeb Strait, in the southern Red Sea. Iranian Navy Commander Rear Admiral Habibollah Sayyari told reporters that the armed pirates attempted to attack the ship twice and that Iranian Naval forces thwarted the attacks. (Fars News Agency)

4. (U) **SOMALIA:** On 13 February, five armed individuals in a skiff chased and fired upon the Sierra Leone-flagged RO-RO vessel ANDREA near position 01:07 N - 044:34 E, 3 nm north of Barawe, Somalia. The armed embarked security team returned fire and after 20 minutes the pirates departed the area. A few hours later, the pirates made another unsuccessful attack against the ship. Several containers on the vessel were damaged during the attack. No crew members were injured during the attacks. (The Daily Star (Kenya), IMB)

5. (U) **GULF OF ADEN:** On 8 February, twelve suspected pirates in three skiffs approached an underway general cargo ship near position 12:24 N – 043:32 E, approximately 15 nm southeast of Perim Island, Yemen. The skiffs approached at high speed from the port and starboard side and closed to around 500 meters of the ship. A possible ladder was identified in a skiff. The crew raised the alarm, informed authorities, mustered crew in the citadel, and fired flares in the direction of the skiffs. As the skiffs continued to approach the private armed embarked security fired warning shots causing the skiffs to withdraw. (IMB)

H. (U) **PERSIAN GULF:** No current incidents to report.

I. . (U) **SOUTHEAST ASIA AND INDIAN SUBCONTINENT:**

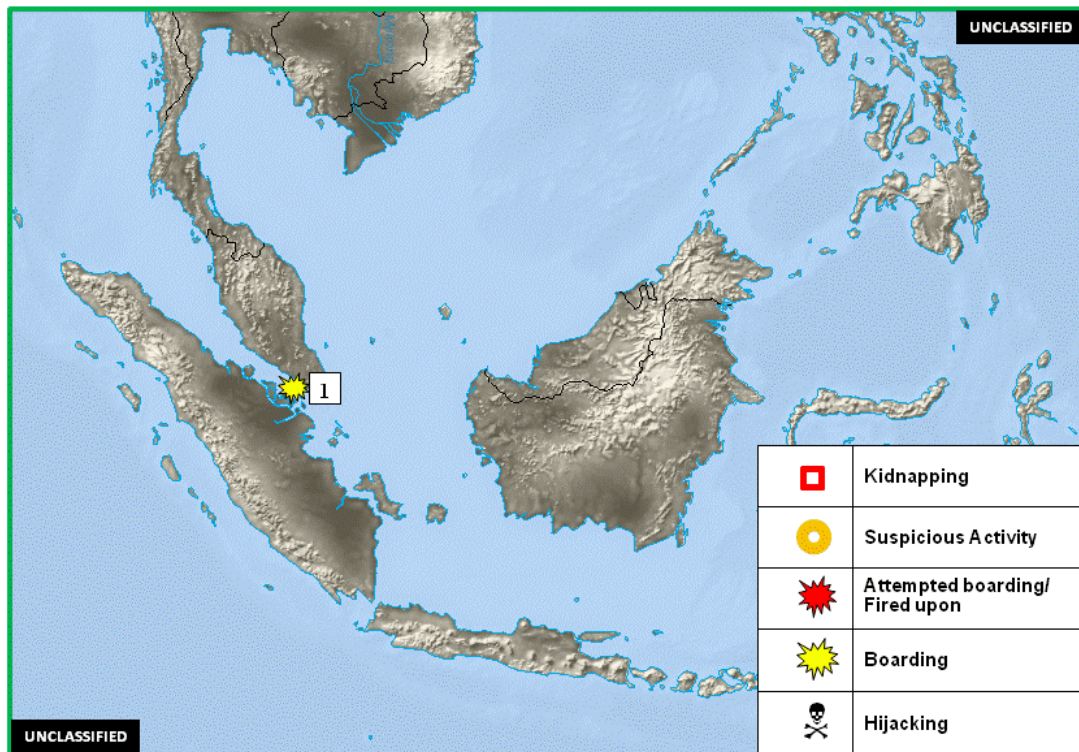


Figure 3. Southeast Asia – Indian Subcontinent Maritime Crime

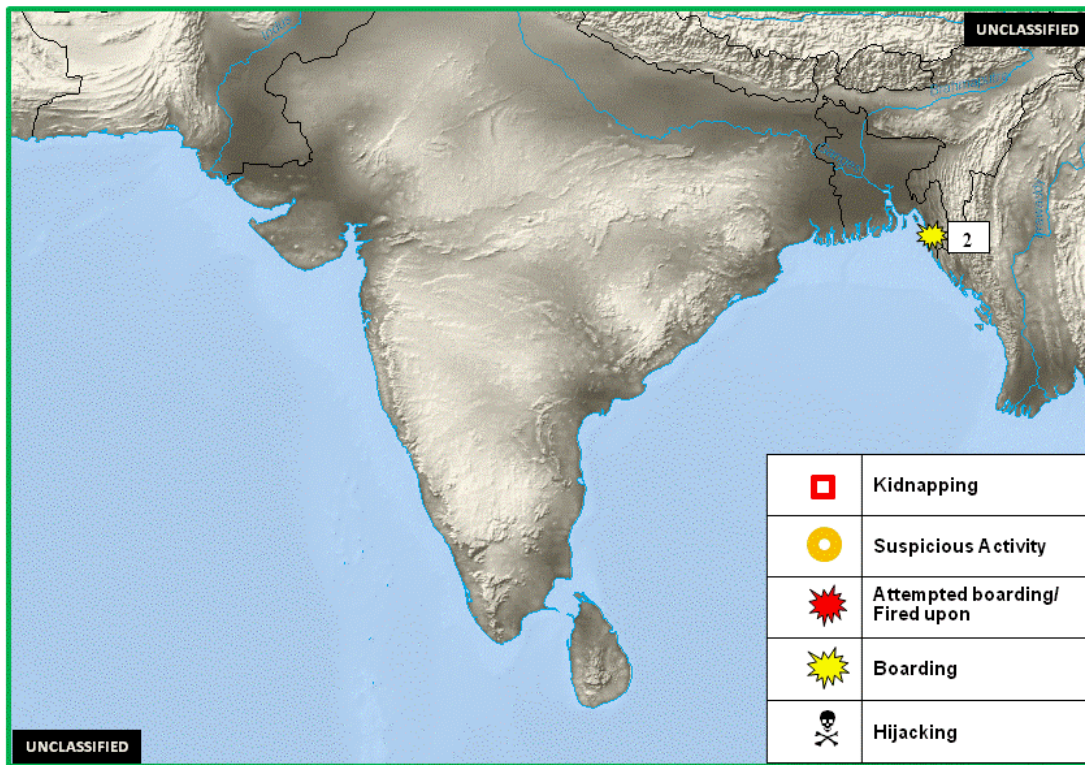


Figure 4. Southeast Asia – Indian Subcontinent Maritime Crime

1. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 March, four robbers boarded an underway tanker near position 01:11 N – 103:26 E, approximately 3 nm from Pulau Karimun Kecil. The robbers were armed with knives and arrived in a speed boat. When the crew raised the alarm, the pirates escaped empty handed. (IMB)

2. (U) BANGLADESH: On 1 March, four robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 22:14 N – 091:44 E, Chittagong Anchorage. The robbers who were armed with knives boarded the ship from the stern. When the duty crew spotted the robbers and raised the alarm, the crew mustered and reported the incident to the Bangladesh Coast Guard who sent out a patrol boat. The robbers managed to escape; however, a search revealed that nothing was stolen. (IMB)

3. (U) BANGLADESH: On 24 February, ten robbers boarded an anchored chemical tanker near position 22:15 N - 091:43 E, Chittagong Anchorage. The robbers, who were armed with knives, arrived in an unlit wooden boat and boarded the tanker using grappling hooks. The duty crewman noticed the robbers and informed the bridge. The crew raised the alarm and sounded the ship's whistle, which caused the crew to rush to the bridge. In response to the crew's response, the robbers jumped overboard with the stolen items and escaped in their boat with their accomplices. (IMB)

4. (U) BANGLADESH: On 20 February, the crew on a tug towing a general cargo vessel to scrap observed five fishing boats approach the cargo vessel under tow near position 21:00 N –

091:37 E, approximately 75 nm south of Chittagong. Two of the fishing boats came alongside and pirates boarded the vessel and were seen lowering the ship's property. (IMB)

5. (U) INDONESIA: On 14 February, a robber(s) boarded an anchored container ship near position 05:59 S – 106:55 E, Jakarta Roads. When the duty crewman on routine rounds noticed an unlit small wooden boat quickly leaving the stern of the ship, the crew raised the alarm and searched the vessel. During the search the crew discovered that engine room stores had been stolen. (IMB)

6. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 February at approximately 0615 local time, five robbers armed with knives boarded an underway cargo ship near position 01:03 N – 103:36 E, southern Singapore Strait. The robbers entered the engine room and threatened the duty crew who immediately left the engine room and informed the bridge. The crew raised the alarm, mustered the crew on the bridge, and activated the SSAS. A search of the vessel was then carried out. (IMB)

7. (U) INDONESIA: On 6 February at approximately 0630 local time, seven robbers armed with knives boarded an underway container ship near position 01:05 N – 103:33 E, southern Singapore Strait. The robbers entered the engine room and tied up the electrical officer. They then stole the engine spares as well as the electrical officer's mobile phone. The electrician managed to untie himself and informed the bridge. The crew raised the alarm and sent out a distress message. The robbers escaped with stolen ship's spare parts. (IMB)

8. (U) INDONESIA: On 10 February, six robbers armed with guns and long knives boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 01:21 N – 104:41 E, approximately 10 nm northeast of Tg. Berakit, Pulau Bintan. When the duty oiler spotted the robbers in the engine room, he informed the duty officer on the bridge. The crew raised the alarm, sounded the ship's whistle, activated the SSAS, and mustered the crew on the bridge. Upon hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped in their boat. The crew searched the vessel and found nothing stolen. (IMB)

9. (U) INDIA: On 10 February, robbers boarded an anchored LPG tanker near position 17:37 N – 083:24 E, Visakhapatnam Anchorage. The robbers escaped unnoticed with ship's properties. The crew informed Port Control. (IMB)

10. (U) INDONESIA: On 5 February, five robbers armed with knives boarded an anchored chemical tanker near position 01:25N – 104:34E, approximately 11 nm north of Tg. Berakit, Pulau Bintan. When the duty watchman on routine rounds noticed foot prints in the engine room, he immediately informed the duty officer on the bridge who raised alarm and alerted the crew. On hearing the alarm, the robbers escaped in their boat with the stolen stores. (IMB)

11. (U) BANGLADESH: On 5 February, robbers boarded an anchored bulk carrier near position 22:15 N – 091:45 E, Chittagong Anchorage. During routine rounds, duty crewman noticed the four robbers near the stern lowering ship's stores into two wooden boats with three robbers in each boat. Upon being detected, the robbers threatened the crewman with knives. The crewman managed to escape and informed the duty officer on the bridge who raised the alarm, alerted the crew, and informed the coast guard. The coast guard arrived and boarded the vessel and interviewed the crew. (IMB)

J. (U) **NORTH ASIA**: No current incidents to report.

K. (U) **PACIFIC-ANTARCTIC OCEAN**: No current incidents to report.

5. (U) **Appendix A: Further Contact Information and Resources**

(U) This appendix provides contact information for the author of the WTS as well as other entities that can be contacted with maritime crime reports. It also lists other resources where the WTS is posted and where piracy and maritime crime incident information can be found.

(U) **Contact**

(U) Originator of this WTS report requests consumer feedback. Originator will incorporate all anti-shipping events and violence against the maritime industry into this weekly message where appropriate. To aid in our reporting, please add the Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) to your normal corporate and organizational reporting requirements. The 24-hour watch can be reached at +1 (301) 669-4053.

(U) **Other Resources**

(U) This Worldwide Threat to Shipping Report is posted at the National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency's Maritime Safety site: <http://msi.nga.mil/NGAPortal/MSI.portal>. The International Maritime Bureau (IMB) also publishes a live piracy report based on reporting from the IMB Piracy Reporting Centre in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, listing all piracy and armed robbery incidents in the last ten days: <http://www.icc-ccs.org/>. The PAWW and WTS Reports are posted weekly on the ONI Intel Portal: http://www.oni.navy.mil/Intelligence_Community/piracy.htm

6. (U) **Appendix B: Terminology and References**

(U) This appendix is provided to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference in reporting and also identifies those references that were used to gather the information contained in this report. ONI welcomes comment and suggestions for addition or amendment.

(U) **Terminology**

(U) In order to promote consistent use of accurate terms of reference, the following have been adopted to describe the range of criminal anti-shipping activity and impediments to safe navigation in our worldwide reporting and analysis. Please note that these terms relate to observable activity and are independent of target vessel status and exclude actions by governmental powers in lawful pursuit of their authorities:

- (U) **Attempted Boarding** – Close approach or hull-to-hull contact with report that boarding paraphernalia were employed or visible in the approaching boat.
- (U) **Blocking** – Hampering safe navigation, docking, or undocking of a vessel as a means of protest.
- (U) **Boarding** – Unauthorized boarding of a vessel by persons not part of its complement

- without successfully taking control of the vessel.
- **(U) Firing Upon** – Weapons discharged at or toward a vessel.
- **(U) Hijacking** – Unauthorized seizure and retention of a vessel by persons not part of its complement.
- **(U) Kidnapping** – Unauthorized forcible removal of persons belonging to the vessel from it.
- **(U) Robbery** – Theft from a vessel or from persons aboard the vessel.
- **(U) Suspicious Approach** – All other unexplained close proximity of an unknown vessel.

(U) Sourcing

(U) ONI derives information in this report from direct reporting and analysis of reports from the following agencies and commercial sources.

- Agence France Presse (AFP)
- Associated Press (AP)
- BBC News (BBC)
- Baltic and International Maritime Council (BIMCO), Denmark (BIMCO)
- EU Naval Forces (EU)
- Fairplay (FP), London
- International Maritime Bureau (IMB), London and Kuala Lumpur
- International Maritime Organization (IMO), London
- Informa Group (INFO)
- Latitude38.com (LAT), website
- Lloyd's List (LL), daily, London
- Local media (LM)
- LSS-SAPU.com (LSS)
- Maritime Administration (MARAD), US
- Maritime Security Council (MSC), US
- Maritime Security Centre – Horn of Africa (MSCHOA), Northwood
- MaRisk by Risk Intelligence (Risk Intelligence/MaRisk)
- National Geospatial-Intelligence Agency (NGA), Navigation Safety System
- Noonsite.com (Noonsite), website
- North Atlantic Treaty Organization Shipping Center (NSC), Brussels
- Oceanuslive.org (OCL), website
- Office of Naval Intelligence (ONI) (analysis and comment)
- Operator (owner or operator of affected vessel)
- Overseas Security Advisory Council (OSAC), US
- Regional Cooperation Agreement on Combating Piracy and Armed Robbery against Ships in Asia, Information Sharing Center (ReCAAP ISC)
- Reuters.com (Reuters), website
- Royal Australian Navy (RAN)
- Royal New Zealand Navy (RNZN)

- Secure Anchorage Area West Africa (SAA)
- Seafarers' Assistance Program (SAP), Kenya
- Tradewinds (TW)
- United Kingdom Maritime Trade Organization (UKMTO)
- United Press International (UPI)
- United States Coast Guard (USCG)
- U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS)
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ)
- U.S. Maritime Liaison Office (MARLO) Bahrain
- U.S. Department of State (DOS)
- U.S. Department of Transportation (DOT)

(U) **ICOD:** 5 March 2014